tions were made during the evenings of June 5 and 6, 1920, from a house boat on the Tachin River, in the district of Sarm Prarm, Nakorn Chaisri, Siam. A distinct flashing of dark and light was observed. A whole tree of flies would flash all together at regular intervals of, by count with a watch, between 105 and 109 flashes a minute.

Frequently entire trees filled with fireflies are observed at the College of Agriculture, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippine Islands and it was at first thought by the writer that an extremely rapid flashing in unison took place. After, however, observing the distinct flashing in unison of the fireflies in Siam it can be stated with certainty that no such synchronal flashing took place at Los Baños.

Determinations made by H. E. Woodworth, of the College of Agriculture, Los Baños, on fireflies from Siam, showed these flies to be of the genus *Calaphotia*. Professor Woodworth states that the firefly at Los Baños is of the same genus, but of a different species. Neither species has been determined.

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Franz Steindachner

To the Editor of Science: I read with much interest the article of Dr. Jordan on Franz Steindachner. I had the great pleasure of visiting Dr. Steindachner twice; once in 1878 and again twenty years later in 1898. He was living in the simple way described by Dr. Jordan on the occasion of both my visits. His maiden sister at that time, however, was living and was keeping house for him in a perfectly simple manner.

I do not wish to speak of Steindachner's great achievements in ichthyology. I want to add my little tribute to his value as a friend. The simplicity of his life, the wonderful clarity of his character and his devotion to his friends make him almost as renowned as his achievements in the investigation of fishes. At the time of my last visit he had achieved the full distinction of head superintendent of the Royal Imperial Museums. He enjoyed to a remarkable degree the confidence of the Emperor Franz Josef. Through a special permit from the imperial palace I was permitted under his guidance to visit the castle with all of its belongings in which the heir to the throne was murdered a few years before.

I was particularly struck with the amity and friendship shown him by the people with whom he worked. As a host he was the essence of geniality and at the same time of simplicity. I carried letters to him on my first visit from friends in Harvard who knew him when he was a resident of Cambridge. He had a great admiration for this country and he numbered many personal and professional friends on this side of the water. While war broke up all political and many social relations with Germany and Austria, I feel quite certain all the personal friends of Dr. Steindachner on this side remained loyal to him through his later years of sorrow and distress, due to the exigencies of the war. The grief for him as a friend is more poignant than the regret of his loss to science.

H. W. Wiley.

Scientific Books

Chemische Krystallographie. By P. Groth. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann. Vol. I., 1906; II., 1908; III., 1911; IV., 1917; V., 1919. 4,443 pages, with 3,342 figures; 8vo, cloth.

All persons interested in crystallized substances will be delighted to know that this monumental work, in the preparation of which Professor Groth spent several decades, has been finally completed. Notices of the publication of the first three volumes have already appeared in Science.[1] Vol. IV. was issued in 1917 and Vol. V. late in 1919.

According to the original plan it was thought that all the available material could be conveniently published in four volumes; the first two to be devoted to inorganic, and the last two volumes to organic compounds. The aromatic organic compounds, however, proved to be much more numerous than had been

[1] Vol. XXV., 143–144; Vol. XXVIII., 843; Vol. XXXIII., 253.